

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 19-23. Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A liquid filter construction comprising:
- (a) a metal baffle plate having an inlet arrangement and an outlet arrangement;
 - (i) said metal baffle plate having an average cross-sectional thickness of at least 0.080 inch;
 - (b) a metal can having an interior and an average cross-sectional wall thickness different than that of said metal baffle plate thickness; said metal can average cross-sectional wall thickness being at least 0.008 inch;
 - (i) said metal can being secured to said metal baffle plate along a laser welded seam; and
 - (c) a filter element operably oriented within said interior of said metal can.